

the chronicle

Birthday surprise

Guides help stalwart Elizabeth mark her 100th milestone

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Memory Lane

Park that gave some breathing space to the local community

Page 10



Harriers' blow

Disappointing home slip-up is setback to play-off hopes

Page 31



Plan for care home set for old pub site

THE site of a former pub in Stourport will become a care home if new plans get the go-ahead.

Stourport-on-Severn Care Ltd wants to build the 67-bedroom home on land where the Manor Inn once stood in Minister Road.

Under the proposals, a three-storey, L-shaped building would be built offering nursing, dementia and residential care.

There would also be a private landscaped garden for residents with trees to provide a tranquil environment for residents.

Agent Simon Dennis, from KD Design (Lincolnshire) Ltd said in the planning documents that the site, which is a short distance from Stourport town centre, had been carefully chosen to enable it to meet the needs of residents.

He said: "Each resident will have differing needs which is why this site has been selected as offering the ability to bring all requirements under one roof."

The plans have been lodged with Wyre Forest District Council.

They will go before a meeting of the district council's planning committee on April 18.

Fire control room update

A NEW fire control room in Worcestershire will replace an outdated centre after a bid for £1.8million funding was approved by the Government.

It will handle emergency fire calls for the county from the fire service's HQ in Worcester.

It will replace the existing control room and will open later this year.

The current system is over 15 years old and in need of major investment, bosses say. The upgrades will enable Worcestershire to work closely with Shropshire fire service, especially during major incidents.

NEW TEAM IN CHARGE AT VICTORIA CARPETS

A NEW regime has taken charge at Kidderminster carpet company Victoria after a bitter three-month battle for control of the 117-year-old business.

Former chairman Alexander Anton, a member of Victoria's founding family, led his consortium of shareholders to victory and forced chairman Nikki Beckett and her fellow director Peter Jensen to quit just 24 hours before a crucial shareholders' meeting in Birmingham.

Mr Anton and his consortium had already won the backing of most of the firm's family shareholders as well as the biggest single institutional investor, New Fortress Finance.

He wanted to replace Ms Beckett and Mr Jensen with four non-executive directors – himself, former investment banker Geoff Wilding, Sir Bryan Nicholson and Lady Katherine Innes Ker as new chairman.

Regret

Victoria's management, led by Ms Beckett and chief executive Alan Bullock had tried to fend off the consortium. But when it secured the support of another institutional shareholder, Gartmore, with a three per cent stake, the battle was over.

In a statement the Victoria board said it was with "great regret" that it had reluctantly accepted the resignations of the independent directors.

The four new directors were confirmed in place at Tuesday's shareholder meeting, which was held in private in Birmingham.

Land on market for £1m

VICTORIA CARPETS is putting a former sports ground in Kidderminster on the market for more than £1 million. The land, in Spennells Valley Road, has planning permission for a hotel, restaurant and bowling centre.

The firm is looking for a developer to purchase the land and money from the sale of the land is to be reinvested in the company.

by Simon Penfold

Katherine Innes Ker said after the meeting: "It's business as usual for Victoria. We are delighted to have been appointed and look forward to working with Alan Bullock and the rest of the management team."

Despite his opposition to the consortium, Alan Bullock said he would not be resigning. He added: "It would be the wrong thing for the company, nearly 700 employees around the world, and our customers."

The consortium claims the business has been underperforming. They aim to expand in Australia and New Zealand.

The group employs 700 people including nearly 200 at Worcester Road where it has been for over a century.

Mr Anton resigned as chairman in 2010 after failing to win support for his re-election. He had previously tried to take the company private but without success.

The battle for control has split the Anton family.

Pupils dress to impress for book day



The reception class at Holy Trinity proudly show off their costumes in which they paraded round the school

PUPILS at Kidderminster's Holy Trinity International School dressed to impress for World Book Day.

The youngsters dressed up as their favourite book characters to celebrate the day.

Throughout the day the children took part in a wide variety of workshops and activities, including a Grand

Costume Parade around the school.

School spokesman Jon Brunt said: "World Book Day offers the opportunity to explore and celebrate many kinds of literature and participate in a range of activity workshops."

"Parading around the school is always popular with the younger pupils as it provides them with the

opportunity to show off their costumes, with staff also joining in the parade.

"It's always a great deal of fun." This was the 15th World Book Day which was created by the UN organisation UNESCO to celebrate authors, books and reading. It is marked in more than 100 countries.

Shock at death of business owner, 50

THE family of a well-known restaurant owner in Kidderminster have told of their shock at his sudden death at the age of 50.

Jack Beddall opened The Three Shires restaurant in Lower Mill Street when he was 22. He had worked at Himley Country Club and the Kingfisher Country Club in Kingswinford after leaving catering college in Stafford.

The avid Wolverhampton Wanderers fan, who died at home just before he was due to set off for work, leaves his wife Vicky, son Edward, 15 and daughters Frances, 13 and nine-year-old Nancy.

Mrs Beddall, of Springhill Park, Lower Penn, said his death had been a huge shock.

"He had dedicated his life to his family and his restaurant," she said.

"After leaving catering college, he worked at Himley Country Club and the Kingfisher Country Club, but he decided he wanted to branch out on his own and so he started his business in 1984."

The restaurant was popular with the town. It is closed but Mrs Beddall hopes to re-open it soon.

Mr Beddall died on February 18. His funeral was on Monday at Gornal Wood Crematorium, Dudley.

App route to council

A FREE Android app has been launched by Worcestershire County Council to give people access to council services from mobile phones.

Residents can use it to report problems, or get information on such things as school closures and bus routes. To download it visit the Android market site and search for Worcestershire County Council. For the iPhone app, go to the Apple store and search for Worcestershire County Council.

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£500,000 renovation of manor house unveiled

Historic area is protected

A NEW conservation area for the Green Street area of Kidderminster has been given the go-ahead by councillors.

Green Street is the 17th conservation area to be designated by Wyre Forest District Council. This reflects the significance of its carpet manufacturing history. The designation means that when determining applications for planning permission, the council must take into account the need to preserve or enhance the area's character and appearance. Demolition of most unlisted buildings will now require consent and almost all work to trees will also need consent of the council.

The plan can be viewed online in the conservation section of the council's website. Log on to www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk. It can also be seen at Kidderminster Town Hall and Stourport-on-Severn Civic Centre, and at Kidderminster library.

Councillor Julian Phillips, the council's Cabinet Member for Place Shaping said: "We have a duty to preserve the character of the area whilst encouraging well-designed and sympathetic new development."

School opens up

Holy Trinity International School in Kidderminster holds an open day on March 20 from 5pm until 7pm. Call the school on 01562 822929 for details.

THE final phase of a £500,000 renovation project at an Elizabethan manor house near Kidderminster has been completed.

Mayor of Kidderminster and volunteer, Councillor Anne Hingley, was invited to celebrate the start of the new season at Harvington Hal.

A new glass lobby entrance has been installed.

It follows the restoration of the Malt House, which has been turned into a visitor centre.

The attraction received a grant of £500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the work.

Garden

It marked the start of a busy programme of living history weekends at the attraction giving visitors the chance to experience what the hall was like in years gone by.

Hall manager Sherida Breeden said: "The new glass lobby has been installed over the winter, at the hall's garden entrance."

"This makes a marvellous new exit to the garden and Malt House Visitor Centre."

"Like the Visitor Centre the lobby has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is the final piece of work of the Lottery Project which began in 2008."

Staff and volunteers had been busy behind the scenes to get the attraction ready for the new season.



Mayoress Councillor Anne Hingley opens the new facility with her consort Alan Parsons and her guard of honour



Members of the Harvington household



The Mayoress at the start of the ceremony to unveil the £500,000 renovation

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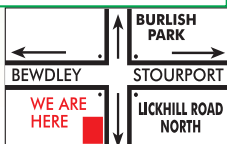
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Have say on easing plan rules

PEOPLE in Kidderminster are being asked for their views on a plan aimed at promoting growth in part of the town.

The move would simplify the planning process in the south Kidderminster Enterprise Park area, according to bosses at the Wyre Forest Council.

A four-week consultation on a local development order is now underway. If adopted, the order would allow development falling into specific employment use classes to be undertaken without the need for planning permission.

The council says it would help cut the costs and time associated with making a planning application, and provide certainty for businesses in the area.

The South Kidderminster Enterprise Park area includes businesses and land along Stourport Road and Worcester Road.

The council's Cabinet Member for Place Shaping, Councillor Julian Phillips said the order would stimulate economic development in an area that had declined over the past 30 years.

For details see www.wyre-forestdc.gov.uk

Crash hurts three

THREE people including a husband and wife were hurt in a car crash in Kidderminster. Two cars were involved in the smash at the Habbler Lane island at around 5pm last Friday.

100 birthday surprises for Guiding stalwart

A FORMER leader of the Girl Guides was in for a surprise on her 100th birthday.

A hundred Girl Guides and Brownies turned up to help her celebrate.

Elizabeth Mills joined the Guides when she was 10 and became president of the Worcestershire Girl Guides, as well as County Commissioner. She was mayor of Stourport in 1982 and 1992, and chairman of Wyre Forest District Council from 1979 to 1980, and was the first person to be given the title life president of Wyre Forest Conservative Association.

Mrs Mills who grew up in the Hedgesford area before moving to Stourport with her late husband Leslie in 1956, was also an honorary member of Worcestershire County Council and was made an MBE in 1981.

Founded

She even has a day centre – the former Stourport Social Day Centre for over 55s – named after her.

Girls aged seven to 14 from the Stourport and Areley Kings Guides units descended on Sanctuary Care's Ravenhurst Care Home in Lickhill Road North, Stourport, where Mrs Mills now lives, to sing Happy Birthday.

Helen Winter, leader of Areley Kings Guides, said: "Mrs Mills has done so much for our organisation. She founded the 3rd Stourport Guides and was instrumental in setting up the Worcestershire Guides' camp at Hanley Swan, near Malvern."

Mrs Mills said: "I feel wonderful about reaching 100. I loved being in the Girl Guides. It's the camaraderie of the guides that is so lovely, gathering together and finding something a bit different to do."

Mrs Mills was also joined in her celebrations by her son Steven and three grandsons Andrew, Stuart and Peter, and Stourport's mayor, David Little.



Elizabeth Mills, former president and County Commissioner of Worcestershire Girl Guides, on her 100th birthday



Mrs Mills in her guiding days



Elizabeth Mills with her late husband Leslie

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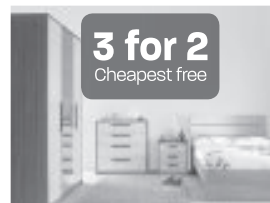
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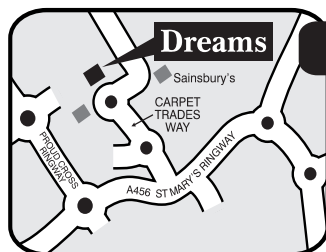
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Government is urged to help victims of asbestos

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Capital trip for students



The Cenotaph at Whitehall was one of the sights for the students

STUDENTS from Holy Trinity International School in Kidderminster travelled to London to see the government at work.

They met Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier, and were taken on a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster. The trip was part of their GCSE and A-level studies.

The students were able to quiz Mr Garnier about parliamentary busi-

ness, and his own views on subjects including student fees.

They saw the wartime cabinet office, the Cenotaph, 10 Downing Street, and even the National Gallery.

Head teacher Pamela Leek-Wright said: "What a fantastic learning opportunity, bringing history and current issues to life for our senior students."

NEW statistics show that Wyre Forest has a death rate for an asbestos-related cancer which is above the national average.

Figures obtained by not-for-profit campaign group the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) show that from 2006 to the end of 2010, mesothelioma, a terminal cancer of the lung wall, was recorded as the underlying cause of 22 deaths in the area.

It is the equivalent to 2.7 deaths in 100,000 people. The average for England and Wales during the same period was 2.5.

APIL president David Bott said: "More people die of mesothelioma in Wyre Forest per head of the population than in most other parts of the country."

Sufferers

"The number of men dying from this disease is expected to peak in the next five years and what many people don't realise is that hundreds of sufferers cannot get the compensation they need to help them through the last days of their life."

"What is needed is for the Government to bring forward proposals for a fund for injured workers who are unable to pursue the justice they deserve."

Many victims can't pursue a claim for damages because they can no longer trace the employer who exposed them to asbestos, or the employer's insurance company. Mr Bott said: "A similar fund exists for victims injured by uninsured drivers. The Government must introduce one for injured workers."

Ceilidh for church

A CEILIDH is taking place at Hartlebury Village Hall on March 17 at 7pm. The night features music from The Banjacs and aids St James' Church. Tickets are £12 including a meal, £6 for under 15s. Call Chris Webb on 01299 250452 for details.

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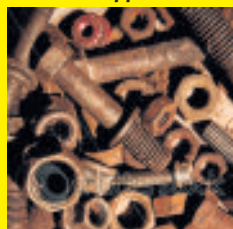
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LETTERS

Make Jerusalem our national anthem

THE Olympics and the jubilee will I hope mean that the national anthem is sung many times this summer.

But I believe that our present anthem is long overdue for consigning to the attic to be replaced by Jerusalem.

The phrase "England's green and pleasant land" could be changed to "Britannia's green and pleasant land".

I say this for several reasons: 1. The present anthem is bland. 2. Jerusalem often reduces me to tears. 3. Other verses of the Queen, although never sung, involve phrases about crushing or nuking the Scots and being saved from Popery. 4. Most importantly, I do not wish to sing about being "reigned over".

Regarding the last point, I have an ambivalent attitude towards monarchy. While in general not being a great fan of the idea, it does suit our national characteristics and needs and additionally we have, I believe, a head of state second to none in the Queen.

I would reserve judgement on those to come and unreservedly would not wish to be "reigned over" by some of her predecessors holding the post.

I daresay some would opt for Rule Britannia or Land of Hope and Glory, both great songs but containing verses

which no longer apply such as "ruling the waves" or "God making us mighty".

Still it could be worse. We could have one of those rumpty, tumpty anthems so popular with South American countries. The ones where the intro is so long you think, then you are jolted out of your boredom by the actual singing of the anthem.

One last thought: I Vow to Thee My Country would come in a close second as my choice.

Alan M Etheridge,
 Catholic Lane, Sedgley.

Keep road missiles out of the jobs' hands

ONCE again we read stories of mindless yobs throwing missiles from bridges onto passing cars below.

I would imagine such missiles are found on or close to the bridges.

It would be very doubtful if these yobs carry such items from their home addresses.

Is this debris the result of materials left from road works or bridge repairs close by?

Would it not be possible for all local authorities to ask highway inspection or maintenance teams to check for such items near to bridges during routine inspection duties and have all loose potential "bomb" material removed?

Bob Jones,
 Halesowen.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Kidderminster Chronicle,
 Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
 Queen Street, Wolverhampton
 WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

kidderminsterchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Madness of raising m-way speed limit

I SEE once again the madness of increasing the motorway speed limit to 80 has been suggested.

I would have thought that the recent carnage on the M5 would be enough to show that this is a bad idea.

No doubt investigations will show that was caused by driving too fast, following too close and not looking far enough ahead. The use of high-intensity rear lights eliminating the advance warning given by brake lights was also probably a factor.

All these problems will be exaggerated by a higher speed limit. As shown on the M5, drivers need more than ABS brakes and air-conditioning when they are too close to a HGV when it jack-knifes.

I suppose businesses want their drivers to cover more miles more quickly, with no limit on driving hours for light vehicles, so they will win this argument. So 100 miles at 70 mph takes 1hr 25min; 100 miles at 80mph would take 1hr 15min. How many lives is that 10-minute saving worth?

D Powell,
 Stafford.

Law must change on muzzles on dogs

AS an owner of a Staffie that I adopted as a rescue dog I have been reading the letters page with interest.

My dog is elderly, soft as a brush with my children and totally ignores other dogs.

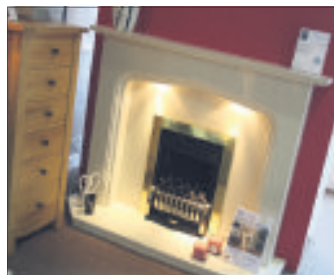
However, I have witnessed attacks by other Staffies. Any dog that bites should be muzzled whatever the breed. Irresponsible owners will not do this voluntarily, so the laws need to change. Staffies should be kept on leads in public and muzzled off lead.

Jack Russells and chihuahuas bite, but not with the power of Staffies.

SBT's have been attacking working guide dogs regularly causing great distress for the blind owner. It is time to complain to our MPs for the laws to change.

Mrs Fereday,
 Kitchen Lane,
 Wednesfield.

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Charities urged to join town's carnival effort

Home tuition for pupils



Some of the children from St Catherine's School, visiting the show house

HOME learning was given a new twist when school children visited a show house in Kidderminster.

The four and five-year-old pupils of St Catherine's School were invited to look around the show home at The Briars as part of a project on building and the home.

Teacher Kate Lowe explained: "We are due to move to a new school building in the summer, so we're working on a project on building as part of our creative curriculum. Our reception classes are

learning about houses and homes.

"The children were given checklists of different features found in a typical home to focus their minds."

Marie Morris, sales director for Elan Homes in the North, said: "We were delighted to welcome the children. Some of them live in apartments or share a bedroom with siblings and the visit enabled them to appreciate the similarities and differences in their homes and our show home."

KIDDERMINSTER carnival organisers are encouraging voluntary groups and charities to take a stall at this year's event.

They can have £5 off the £20 charge for a stall at the Brinton Park showground on June 23. Stallholders who simply want to give information about their organisation can have a stall free.

Chairman Colin Hill said: "The carnival is an excellent way for organisations to raise their profile and earn funds for themselves."

Commercial organisations are also welcome and anyone wanting more than 15ft of space can rent larger areas for £6 per extra 5ft.

Organisers have attracted £1,000 in sponsorship for the event which will boost the amount of money that can be given to this year's chosen charity, the 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade minibus appeal.

King Charles I High School has pledged £500, the Swan Centre is sponsoring the carnival's showcase of talent with £250, Councillor Marcus Hart has given £150 from his discretionary fund and the Kidderminster-based Polish Consulate for the West Midlands has donated £100.

For details call Mr Hill on 01562 751634.

Coffee for charity

THE 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade hosted a coffee morning to raise cash to help finance a 60-mile trek on the Pennine Way in July. They are working towards the Queens badge, and will also be raising money for charity.

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Warning sounded on fakers

A TRADING standards team is warning people to be on their guard against bogus crime prevention callers.

Officers in Dudley say callers claim to be from a local crime prevention or home safety campaign and often say they are working with the police.

But the callers are actually from firms trying to sell expensive burglar alarms at up to £5,000 each. They say the alarms are free but charge £5,000 to monitor them.

Anyone with any queries can contact Consumer Direct on 0845 404 0506.

Stars on their marks for charity

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers' players have are showing their support for the British Heart Foundation's Wyre Forest Jog on Sunday.

Michael Briscoe, who plays in defence for the Harriers, said: "As professional football players we know the importance of looking after our hearts, so it makes sense for us to show our support to the BHF and the fantastic work they do."

"We'd encourage everyone who knows someone who has been affected by

heart disease to sign up to the Wyre Forest Jog and do their bit to help the BHF continue their life-saving work."

Taking place in the Wyre Forest, the jog has 5K and 10K routes, enabling people of all ages and abilities to take part.

Registration costs £10 for adults and £5 for children. Entries on the day will be available at £15 for adults, with registration opening at 9am and the event starting at 11am.

Jemma Curran, Regional Event Organiser for the BHF, said: "We've had a great response so far, but

with just one week to go we still have places left to fill.

"We're aiming for this event to raise £30,000 towards our vital, life-saving work, but to achieve that we need more people to sign up and take part."

For more information and to register online, visit bhf.org.uk/wyre or call the event team on 0800 169 3672.

Entry fees help towards the cost of running the event safely, but participants are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as possible to help support the work of the charity.



Event organiser Jemma Curran with Harriers' footballers, left to right, James Vincent, Dave Hankin, Michael Briscoe and Mickey Demetriou

Churches set gospel challenge

PARISHIONERS in Kidderminster have set themselves the task of learning a chapter from St Mark's Gospel off by heart.

St Mary's and St Barnabas churches set the challenge for Lent.

Canon Owain Bell said: "Hearing this Gospel would take two and a half hours, so the first half will be performed one week and the second half the next."

The first performance takes place at St Oswald's church on March 18 and the second half at Holy Trinity Church Trimpley the following week.

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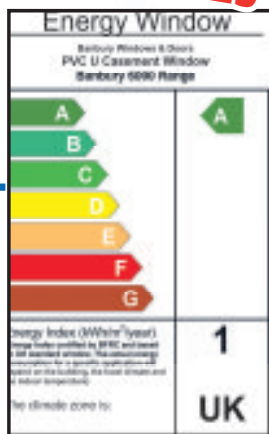
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The boating pool with the house and the bowling green, pictured in 1927



The Birmingham city coat of arms on the bandstand



Lightwoods Park shot in 1927 by Sydney Smith for the Smethwick Photographic Society



The bandstand in Lightwoods Park pictured in 1927

Park that offered a rare breathing space

ONE of Sandwell's jewels, Lightwoods Park, is a much-loved green lung in heavily built up Bearwood.

The name is thought to describe the lightly wooded nature of the land on which the house was built; no hiding place for bears.

Lightwoods House is an elegant Grade 2 listed building, in a neo-classical style.

A brick set in the walls is inscribed "Jonathan Grundy, June 19th, 1780" and probably indicates the original date of construction.

The house passed through marriage from the Grundy family to the Willett family.

In 1858 it was leased to soap manufacturer George Caleb Adkins, who bought it in 1865.

Bearwood nearly lost its finest build-



By Richard Slaughter

ing in 1902 when house and park came up for sale and seemed destined to be redeveloped for more streets of terraced housing.

Alexander Chance of Smethwick Glass Works established a committee which raised £13,000 for their purchase, and then handed them over to the City of Birmingham.

It was only in 2010 that ownership was transferred to Sandwell Council.

In 1915, a garden was laid out with plants named in the works of Shakespeare. It still survives.

The park bandstand is a beautiful

example, with fine iron work. The boating pool and bowling green have gone, but are fondly remembered.

The house was used in turn as a library, a café, for recuperating soldiers and by the Sons of Rest.

The renowned stained glass firm Hardmans relocated here from Birmingham in 1971 and remained for over 30 years.

After their departure, the building was boarded up.

Today, the park has Green Flag status and benefits from an active friends group.

A skating rink was installed in Lightwoods Park last Christmas, and was so popular, it will return next December.

Further restoration of house and park is due to be funded by Sandwell Council, the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



George Caleb Adkins, one-time Lightwoods House owner

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thechronicle

£7m regeneration plans for wharf are unveiled



Left to right, Clive Fletcher with Colin Callaghan and Tony Hyde from Thomas Vale Construction

BUSINESSES behind a huge economic push for Stourport town centre have discussed multi-million pound regeneration plans with local people.

The proposed £7 million redevelopment, to be known as James Brindley Wharf, is intended to turn Bridge Street into a new pedestrian gateway to the canal basins, linking the Riverside Meadows area across Bridge Street through to the basin area.

The consultation event at the Stourport Yacht Club was hosted by Clive

Fletcher Developments, Thomas Vale Construction, BBLB Architects, Walton Hipkiss and Wright Silverwood and attracted more than 80 people.

It is intended that the gateway will be a mixture of commercial, retail and residential units which will boost the town's potential for growth.

Tony Hyde, group managing director at Stourport-based contractor Thomas Vale, said: "The support for the development has been outstanding and this project launch is the first of many consultation events which are due to take place."

He said the scheme could offer training for young people, boost the area's economy and bring people back in to the town.

It is being backed by Wyre Forest District Council, the Homes and Communities Agency, and British Waterways, and is part of the council's ReWyre regeneration initiative.

Councillor Stephen Clees said: "It is a very exciting redevelopment project. It will open up Stourport's waterways and be a jewel in the crown for generations to come."



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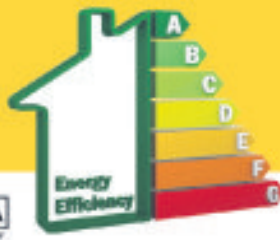
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COMPETITION

Luxury holiday is just the ticket



CHRONICLE readers have the chance to win a luxury seven-night stay in Fuerteventura, courtesy of Thomas Cook in Stourbridge.

To celebrate their opening in the Ryemarket shopping centre on February 17, Thomas Cook Stourbridge – in conjunction with Birmingham Airport and the Elba Sara Hotel – is offering one person the chance to win a seven-night stay for two adults at the beautiful four star Elba Sara hotel in Fuerteventura.

The impressive Elba Sara offers a perfect mixture of comfort, relaxation and modern facilities, all in an excellent beachfront setting. A pretty manmade river runs through the hotel gardens, large picture windows offer fantastic views from the reception and bedrooms are furnished to a high standard.

The stay is all inclusive, so get away from a wet and windy England and take yourself off for a short break in the sun.

To enter this competition, just answer this easy question:

What date did Thomas Cook open in the Ryemarket shopping centre in Stourbridge?

A:10 B:17 C:25

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number (only one entry per household) to Thomas Cook Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, March 15. For further details, call into the Thomas Cook store.

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This prize is valid for travel between April 16, 2012-May 25, 2012; June 11, 2012-June 19, 2012; September 10, 2012-October 19, 2012; November 1, 2012-December 16, 2012.

The accommodation and flights are subject to availability. The prize is for two adults sharing one standard room on all-inclusive basis at Elba Sara in Fuerteventura. The prize winner must depart from Birmingham Airport. In-flight meals and 20kgs of luggage allowance is included.

The prize must be booked before March 31, 2012.

Travel insurance is not included. Cash prize is equivalent to £0.00001p. The prize must be taken as offered. The prize winner must be the lead passenger.



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Windfall of £600 for groups

POLICE have donated £600 to two community groups.

The senior citizens' woodwork group at Meadow Road Youth Club in The Priory, Dudley, and an over 60s club at Wrens Nest community centre in the town have both benefited.

The cash comes from the Proceeds of Crime Act which allows officers to recover money and assets gained through criminal activity. This money is then invested back into the community, assisting local projects and groups.

£4.2m crem opened by bishop

WHITE doves were released at the opening of a £4.2 million cemetery and crematorium in Wyre Forest.

A ceremony led by the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Reverend Dr John Inge, marked the occasion at the site in Minter Road, Kidderminster.

After a plaque was unveiled the doves were released from their carrier to soar into the air.

The opening ceremony was attended by district councillors, funeral directors and representatives from Dignity, the company that operates the crematorium.

In the summer residents will be invited to an open day where they will be able to

view the crematorium grounds and facilities.

Staff will be there to answer questions about the cremation process or the services that crematorium and cemetery will provide.

Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council, Councillor Stephen Clee said: "I was delighted to participate in the event that launched this state-of-the-art facility."

Atmosphere

"It is truly an inspirational design and during construction attention has been given to the finest detail using locally sourced materials and labour."

"I am sure the local community will

appreciate the graceful atmosphere and the quiet spaces for reflection that are around the site."

Manager of the crematorium and cemetery, Joy Edgington, said: "I would like to thank our fantastic speakers for giving us a service to remember."

"Wyre Forest Crematorium will provide the local community with the highest possible standards of service."

The new site has been created because space is running out on the older Park Lane space. It has full burial and cremation facilities, including a chapel of rest.

A tree-lined avenue leads to buildings and landscaped areas featuring wild flowers, rockeries and a pond.



The Bishop of Worcester with council chairman Stephen Clee at the opening ceremony

Resource tips will be on agenda

LOCAL historians and people researching their ancestors will get tips on using newspapers as a source at a talk organised by the Black Country Society.

The talk, by Dr Colin Chapman, will be at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley on March 28 at 7.30pm.

The society will hold its annual meeting before the talk, when the president will hand over the chain of office to historian Dr Trevor Raybould.

Centre ready for Saxon invasion



The warriors will be accompanied by their craftsmen and women to provide an exciting and fun-filled day

FEARFUL Saxons are to invade Worcestershire's environmental education centre at Bishop Wood.

The Saxon re-enactment group Wulfheodenas will be taking over the centre near Stourport on March 25 for the day, providing a host of activities for all the family.

Wulfheodenas, a warrior band from the time of the Staffordshire Hoard and Sutton Hoo will set up camp in the Saxon Hall and deliver a series of presentations about Saxon life and notable warriors of the period.

The warriors will be with their craftsmen and their womenfolk, who will have made things in metal, bone and cloth. Visitors can talk to them about what life was like in Anglo-Saxon England at the start of the seventh century, listen to their stories and tales, and learn how they lived and what they thought about their lives.

John Rhymer, head of the centre, said: "Having Wulfheodenas at the centre, will give visitors a taste of Saxon life by exploring costume, food, arms and armour."

"Wulfheodenas conduct thorough research into Anglo-Saxon times in Britain. They have a wealth of knowledge about the period and are experts at sharing it, which should guarantee a fun-filled day."

For details visit www.bishopswoodcentre.org.uk

Roads are hit as work continues

THE next phase of an 18-month programme of roadworks in Dudley town centre is under way.

St James's Road, from the junction of Trinity Road to the junction of Parson's Street, will be closed for a week.

Work is also continuing in Castle Hill and highways engineers are expected to remain on site until March 18. Later this month contractors will move to Ednam Road, Hope Street and Parsons Street.

Work starts in The Broad-

way, Hall Street and King Street next month.

Resurfacing work started earlier this year in Wolverhampton Street, and High Street has been completed.

The work, which is being carried out by gas, electric, water and telecommunication utility companies, began last April. It is affecting 64 roads in the town centre.

Traders in Wolverhampton Street have criticised the scheme. They claim it has deterred people from visiting their shops and businesses.

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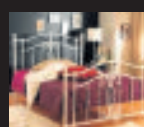
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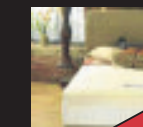
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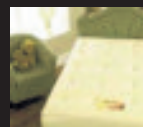
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TA bid to plug drop in Army numbers

THE Territorial Army has launched a major recruiting drive in the Black Country and Staffordshire to fill 500 vacancies in order to sustain its current operations.

The Government is trying to plug the gap in troop numbers by using reservists to fill in for thousands of regular soldiers who will fall victim to cuts.

The Ministry of Defence decided last spring to cut the Army's numbers from 100,000 to 82,000.

The move comes as part of a cost-saving measure with the shortfall made up by 30,000 TA troops.

Review

An open evening was due to be held at MoD Stafford this week in a bid to fill more than 500 vacancies this year in the region alone, and that number is expected to rise annually until 2015. In recent years, the target has been 200.

Recruits are being sought for the 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment, The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry and 37 Signal Regiment.

Army recruitment spokeswoman Claire Deeley, based at MoD Stafford, said: "There has been an ongoing review of the size of the regular army and extra reservists are now being sought."

How the older drivers are geared up for life on road

Think you're an experienced driver? Think again. BEN BENTLEY talks to motorists who have clocked up more than 50 years on the roads

I'll be about an hour, says 87-year-old 'queen of the road' Claire Meredith, zipping off in her little Honda Civic. "I've got to run somebody to the shops."

An hour later and the soon-to-be great grandmother is back home from the first motoring errand of the day, with a few extra yards on the mileometer of driving experience.

Mrs Meredith, a former Walsall pub landlady, is one of a million – because that, for the first time, is the number of drivers aged 80 and over now on Britain's roads, according to new DVLA figures.

In the West Midlands alone there are 35,003 octogenarians on the highway. In fact the number of older drivers will continue to rise as the Office of National Statistics predicts that there will be 8.7million people over the age of 75 by 2033.

Safer

But contrary to common assumptions, drivers in their 80s are not dangerous. The DVLA figures show they are much safer than their more youthful counterparts.

The rate of deaths and serious injuries in crashes among drivers over 80 is three times less than the rate for those aged 17-19. In 2010 almost one young driver aged 17-19 was killed or seriously injured per thousand licence holders.

So who makes the best drivers? Mrs Meredith passed her driving test, first time, in 1953 in an Austin A30. "There were no tick-tick indicators then, we had to do hand signals," she says, waving her outstretched right hand round in little circles to indicate her intention



Claire Meredith is one of a million drivers aged over 80 on our roads today

to hang a left. It was 11 lessons for £10, including the cost of your test."

The open road has been hers for the driving her ever since and she believes that experience makes older motorists better drivers.

"I try to be careful but I don't worry what I am doing – if I can't drive by now there's no point in worrying about it! You haven't got to worry about how many cars are trailing back behind you or in front of you."

In almost 50 years of driving Mrs Meredith has only ever had one prang, caused about 10 years ago after another motorist failed to indicate when turning. As a result she chose to attend a one-to-one driving course rather than have her otherwise spotless licence darkened with a few points.

She only tootles about, but her little Civic gives her a sense of independence. "I cannot walk very far, but it's the difference between being able to live a normal life or having to

be shut in the house," she says.

Although she has done all of 35,000 miles in the last 12 years, she has driven extensively through Europe. Around 12 years ago she went on a road trip to Alicante with a friend. "It is so easy," she says.

Privilege

Former police superintendent Mike Collins, 80, from Merry Hill, Wolverhampton is still working as an advanced driving instructor, and his former pupils have included comedian Ernie Wise and rally driver Paddy Hopkirk.

He says: "Having passed the test in 1948, I was let loose on the roads around Wolverhampton and Shropshire at 17, but it was not until I had the privilege of two police advanced driving courses, in 1954 and 1956, that I found out just how little I really knew."

In my view, today's new drivers, having been turned loose after a not very demand-



Norman Dewis, still driving at 91

ing test, are being thrown into an end much deeper than we were in 1948."

At 91 years old, Norman Dewis is not only driving, but also racing his cars. The former chief E-Type test driver at the Jaguar works in Castle Vale, Birmingham has no plans to hang up his leather motoring gloves just yet, and he still drives Jaguars to this day.

"I am still driving on the race tracks – I am at Goodwood Festival of Speed this year again – and I've got three trips to the States, including the Monterey race in August."

Indeed, he scored the fastest lap last year at Goodwood. He began driving in 1937 when he passed his test on a motorcycle.

"I never had a car test," he says. "I passed for the motorbike and it automatically put me in the grade for a car."

He also holds the world record for the number of miles on a test track – one and a quarter million miles.

Cuts are blamed for hike in Neets

MORE than 40,000 teenagers and young adults in the West Midlands are neither in education, employment or training (Neets) compared with a decade ago, figures show.

A total of 119,000 young people are not in school or work, according to figures released by the Department for Education (DfE).

This compares with 75,000 16 to 24-year-olds in the same position at the start of 2000. An employment expert from the University of Wolverhampton says government cuts to further education and the recession are to blame.

Trend

Roger Seifert, professor of industrial relations and human resources management, said: "If you look at the figures, they have shot up since the recession hit in 2008."

"The overall trend is upwards, not only here but across the country."

"There are simply no jobs out there. Companies are not taking on people, and businesses are not prepared to take risks."

Neet is the government term for people not in education, employment or training.

The latest government figures relate to October, November, December last year.

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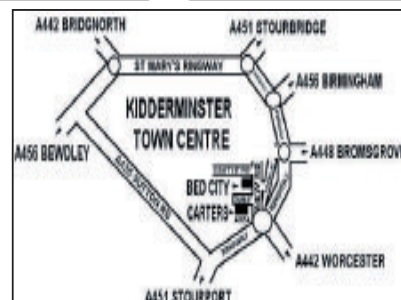
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**Auction Guide Price
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**Auction Guide Price
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**Auction Guide Price
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**Auction Guide Price
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Rising stars from USA

DOUBLE Grammy Award-winning Nashville duo The Civil Wars, whose celebrity fans include Adele and Jonathan Ross, this week release their debut album Barton Hollow in the UK and have a gig at the HMV Institute in Birmingham on Tuesday, March 13.

Singers Joy Williams and John Paul White recently worked with pop-country star Taylor Swift.

It's soul time

FIERCE funkateers Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings bring raw soul vocals and brassy rhythms to Birmingham's HMV Institute tonight (Thursday), drawing from last year's album Soul Time! Georgia born and New York raised Sharon Jones has been described as the female equivalent of James Brown.

Bluesy debut

WORDY, bluesy songs mark the solo album debut, Clear Heart Full Eyes from the Hold Steady frontman Craig Finn. Lots of religious iconography, grunge guitar alongside acoustic and a vocal akin to Elvis Costello. He supports The Felice Brothers at Birmingham HMV Institute on March 14.

Demi hits the top

DISNEY star Demi Lovato has made the transition to pop princess with the state-side success of her single Skyscraper from her album Unbroken, released this week in the UK.

Birds of a Feather reuniting to make a Grand comeback

THE ORIGINAL Essex girls are coming to Wolverhampton Grand for the Birds of a Feather reunion.

The TV sit-com hit from the 1990s created by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran will be brought up-to-date on stage as the TV sisters Sharon and Tracey, again played by Linda Robson and the new slimline Pauline Quirke, are reunited with man-eating neighbour Dorien, Lesley Joseph.

Fans will get the chance to discover what the Chigwell trio have been up to over the past 14 years when the new play is staged at the Lichfield Street venue from Monday, March 19, to Saturday, March 24.

Linda Robson, who played Sharon Theodopolopoulos, who like her sister had a criminal husband serving time, told how the reunion came about and blossomed into a UK tour. "There's been talk of us getting together for a while, which started off with a few phone calls to check if everyone

was interested," she said.

"The next stage was to have meetings and then look at our diaries as our schedules are all so hectic. We all agreed that we would only do it if we were all available.

Present

"The show is going to be set in the present, so audiences will see what Sharon, Tracey and Dorien have been up to in the last 14 years and what they're doing now."

Linda, a regular guest on Loose Women and one of the Grumpy Old Women, added: "We've been working with the original writers, so there's plenty of comedy and drama. Audiences definitely won't be disappointed."



Birds of a Feather back together, from left, Pauline Quirke, Lesley Joseph and Linda Robson

Feud continues beyond grave

THE feud between Hollywood icons Bette Davis and Joan Crawford carries on beyond the grave in Foursight Theatre's Bette & Joan: The Final Curtain, at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre next week. In the play devised by Sarah Thom and Sarah Toogood with writer James Greaves, Bette goes one more round, with Joan's ghost. It is at the Wulfruna Street venue on Tuesday and Wednesday at 7.30pm with a Wednesday matinee. It is also the final curtain for Foursight after 25 years, due to losing grant support.

Hair is cut from theatre line-up

THE UK tour of hippy musical Hair, which had included Wolverhampton and Birmingham dates, has been cancelled. The show starring Pop Idol finalists Gareth Gates and Zoe Birkett was due to call at Wolverhampton Grand and Birmingham's New Alexandra theatres.

Chicago dazzles

Chicago, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

SOAP stars turn song-and-dance sensations in the new touring production of sexy jazz musical Chicago, Kander and Ebb's black comedy.

This show oozes West End class and the leading ladies, Ali Bastian (Hollibaugh) as Roxie Hart and Tupele Dorgu (Coronation Street) as Velma Kelly, are both hot stuff. EastEnders gets in on the act with Stefan Booth playing the crooning death row puppet master as slick lawyer Billy Flynn. Bernie Nolan is too nice to convince as the jailhouse's Mama Morton but her voice is powerful, as those who saw TV's Popstar to Operastar will know. The jazz band are a treat.

Go get dazzled before Chicago finishes its run on Saturday. **LB**

Right on Q for fun musical

Avenue Q, Wolverhampton Grand

AVENUE Q is classed as Sesame Street for grown ups. It is certainly not your average musical.

Its appeal is youthfulness and puppets that are skillfully manipulated by clearly visible actors who deliver the dialogue and songs. The odd thing is that you watch the puppets rather than the actors.

These characters include a gay banker, a Miss Piggy-like sex goddess, a teaching assistant and an English Lit student, who deal with such issues as racism and sexism.

The tongue-in-cheek script and hilarious lyrics to the catchy tunes were a delight and delivered superbly by a talented cast. An imaginatively used set added to this avenue of excellence.

Les Jowett

A few giggles but not many laughs

Hormonal Housewives Coming to Birmingham and Lichfield on tour

THE 99 per cent female audience at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn were up for a girls' night out at a show which promised a cross between Loose Women and The Vagina Monologues. What they got were a few giggles and too few belly laughs. The three performers tried hard to make up for mediocre material which said nothing new or insightful about the female condition. They went through the usual topics - childbirth, feminine hygiene and the shortcomings of men.

Margi Clarke provided slapstick, Laura Checkley gurned and co-writer Julie Coombe took the lead through anecdotes and sketches that were hit-and-miss. A tirade of anti-male jokes hit the spot (unlike most men, apparently) but the below-par sketches robbed the show of comic momentum.

Leon Burakowski

It's Nog unusual

Tir Na Nog, Robin 2, Bilston

SOMNY Condell and Leo O'Kelly make up one of the most unusual duos on the folk circuit. With respect, they look like a couple of buskers. Tir Na Nog - Gaelic for Land of Eternal Youth - have a distinctive and powerful sound. They have a flavour of early Simon & Garfunkel but can crank it up too, on songs such as Venezuela which has a reggae thump.

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FILM TIMES 9th to 15th MARCH 2012

JOHN CARTER 3D (12A) FRI & MON - THURS SAT & SUN	17.15 20.10 11.30 14.20 17.15 20.10	THE MUPPETS (U) SAT & SUN	13.50
PROJECT X (18) FRI & MON - THURS SAT & SUN	18.20 13.30 18.20	THE WOMAN IN BLACK (12A) DAILY	18.30
THIS MEANS WAR (12A) DAILY	16.10 20.30	KIDS CLUB (£1.10 PER TICKET)	
BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (12A) FRI & MON - THURS SAT & SUN	15.40 20.20 15.30 20.20	ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS SAT & SUN	11.50
THE RAVEN (15) FRI & MON - THURS SAT & SUN	15.45 18.10 20.40 13.10 15.40 18.10 20.40	PUSHS IN BOOTS SAT & SUN	11.20
		A MONSTER IN PARIS SAT & SUN	11.10

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THE JONATHAN ROSS SHOW

ITV1, 9pm

Wossy has gone up against his fair share of Hollywood A-listers in his time, but will he have what it takes to hold his own against Jack Bauer himself, Kiefer Sutherland? The former 24 star is dropping in to discuss his new venture, the Sky1 series Touch, in which he plays a single father in New York whose mute son is trying to communicate through mysterious numbers and codes. Also dropping in for a chat is Mamma Mia! actress Amanda Seyfried, who no doubt will find time to talk about her new film, the thriller Gone, which is released later in the month. Singer-songwriter Paul Weller provides the music.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.35 Rachel Allen: Home Cooking.** (R) **12.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.** **12.15 Football Focus.** **1.00 Swimming.** **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Wales v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Ireland v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.10 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. With Rowland Liversidge, Fatima Whitbread, and Suzi Perry and Oris Deley. Music is provided by Will Young and LMFAO.

8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. John Partridge presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.20 Casualty. Part two of three. Anton becomes increasingly paranoid that Stevie will talk to the police, and resorts to extreme measures to ensure his silence.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Bolton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers; National Lottery Update.

11.40 The Football League Show. Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Portsmouth.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00 BBC News.**

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00 CBBC.** **12.00 The Sky at Night.** (R) **12.40 Film: In Search of the Castaways.** (1962) Children's adventure, starring Hayley Mills. **2.15 Film: The War Bride.** (2001) Wartime drama, starring Anna Friel. **4.00 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.30 Final Score.** **5.30 Flog It!**

6.30 Dad's Army. An enemy aircraft ditches close to the town. (R)

7.00 The Story of Light Entertainment. How stars of radio made the transition to TV, taking with them new entertainment formats and shows like Little Britain and Hancock's Half-Hour. (R)

8.00 The Story of Musicals. Popular culture's influence on British musical theatre since the 1990s, from Jason Donovan's West End debut as Joseph to 'jukebox musicals' such as Mamma Mia! Last in the series.

9.00 I'm a Pop Star! Life as a solo singer, with contributions by Kylie Minogue and Will Young. Last in the series.

10.00 TOTP: Pop Stars. Performances by Cliff Richard, Madonna, Justin Bieber and Rihanna.

11.00 The Sarah Millican Television Programme. The comedienne presents TV-based stand-up and chat. (R)

11.30 Film: The Stepford Wives. (2004) Black comedy remake, starring Nicole Kidman.

1.00 Film: Spider. (2002) Thriller, with Ralph Fiennes. **2.35 Close.**

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25 CITV.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **11.20 This Morning: Saturday.** **12.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **1.30 ITV News: Weather.** **1.40 Film: Innerspace.** (1987) Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid. **3.55 Film: Evan Almighty.** (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **5.35 Regional News; Weather.** **5.45 ITV News: Weather.**

6.00 All Star Family Fortunes. Wild at Heart's Dawn Steele (Alice Trevanion) and Dancing on Ice judge Robin Cousins team up with their relatives in a bid to win a large cash prize for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

7.00 All New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates camcorder calamities.

7.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.00 Take Me Out. An athlete, a farmer and a rock musician try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates.

9.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Kiefer Sutherland, Amanda Seyfried and Paul Weller.

10.00 ITV News: Weather. **10.15 Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift.** (2006) Motor-racing adventure, starring Lucas Black.

12.05 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. **3.00 In Plain Sight.** **3.45 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30 ITV Morning News.**

6.05 Sail Mali. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Grid.** **7.00 Live Athletics.** The World Indoor Championships. **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Live Athletics.** The World Indoor Championships. **10.30 T4: New Girl.** (R) **11.00 T4: Charlie's Angels.** **11.55 T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.25 T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.50 T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **1.25 T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **1.55 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.05 Channel 4 News.** **4.25 4thought.tv.** **4.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.35 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Aly Nicholson hosts the penultimate dinner party in Peterborough. (R)

6.35 Come Dine with Me. Ricky Dent throws the final party in Peterborough. (R)

7.05 Come Date with Me. Four bachelors compete for the affections of 26-year-old Elle Bretagne.

8.00 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. Travellers who have found romance outside their own community. (R)

9.00 The Bank Job. George Lamb invites the most successful contestants back to the London bank vault for a chance to win even more money.

10.30 Film: Orphan. (2009) Horror, starring Vera Farmiga.

12.45 The Secret Policeman's Ball 2012. (R) **2.40 Lucky Escape.** (R) **2.45 Film: You, The Living.** (2007) Comedy drama, starring Jessica Lundberg. **4.20 Reaper.** (R) **5.00 90210.** (R) **5.40 Countdown.** (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Animal Rescue Squad.** (R) **10.20 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.20 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers.** (R) **12.25 Film: Madron.** (1970) Western, starring Richard Boone. **2.15 Film: Blood Alley.** (1955) Action adventure, starring John Wayne. **4.30 Film: The Green Berets.** (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne.

7.15 5 News Weekend.

7.20 NCIS. The family of a child who finds a gun suspected of being a murder weapon at a naval base comes under suspicion, leaving the team to discover who used it last. (R)

8.15 NCIS. The team investigates the deaths of a radio DJ and naval officer. (R)

9.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. One of Langston's former students is found dead, raising the suspicion that her thesis – investigating the murders of three women 11 years previously – could have made her a target. (R)

10.10 CSI: NY. A party ends in tragedy when the hostess is killed in what appears to be an accident, and Danville takes on the case of a serial rapist who previously eluded her.

11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenager is found burned to death.

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00 Nick's Quest.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.00 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.10 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.45 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

ITV2
2.05 American Idol. **4.50 Film: Batteries Not Included.** (1987) **7.00 Film: Richie Rich.** (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **9.00 Take Me Out – The Gossip.** **9.45 Celebrity Juice.** **10.30 Film: Daylight.** (1996) Disaster movie, starring Sylvester Stallone.

ITV3
2.45 A Touch of Frost. **5.00 Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows.** **6.55 Rosemary & Thyme.** **8.00 Doc Martin.** **9.00 Lewis.** **11.00 Those Who Kill**

ITV4
1.25 Film: Thunderball. (1965) **4.05 Film: Kelly's Heroes.** (1970) **7.00 The Sweeney.** **8.00 Minder.** **9.00 Film: Assassins.** (1995) Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and Antonio Banderas. **11.40 Film: The Black Windmill.** (1974) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine.

BBC THREE
7.00 Doctor Who. **8.35 Top Gear.** **9.35 Live at the Apollo.** **10.10 Film: Deep Impact.** (1998)

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Golden Age of Canals. **8.00 Sicily Unpacked.** **9.00 Inspector Montalbano.** **10.55 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1977.** **11.55 Horizon: To Infinity and Beyond**

E4
1.35 Hollyoaks. **4.10 Perfect Couples.** **4.40 Scrubs.** **5.35 The Big Bang Theory.** **7.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **7.30 Rules of Engagement.** **8.30 Happy Endings.** **9.00 Film: The Wedding Date.** (2005) **10.45 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.40 The Cleveland Show**

FILM4
2.55 Swiss Family Robinson. (1960) **5.25 Freaky Friday.** (1976) **7.20 Dumb and Dumber.** When Harry Met Lloyd. (2003) Comedy prequel, starring Eric Christian Olsen and Derek Richardson. **9.00 (500) Days of Summer.** (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel. **10.50 Carriers.** (2009)

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WILD AT HEART

ITV1, 8.30pm

As the series comes to an end, strange things are happening at Leopard's Den. When aren't they? But with Danny about to leave for the UK, it seems there are signs aplenty urging him to stay. Frogs have seemingly rained down overnight, the giraffe refuses to budge from the front gate and the cheetah has lost its appetite. After all he has been through over there it seems remarkable that he wants to investigate, but Danny jumps at the chance to have one last adventure before his return home — tracking a lioness that attacked a tourist — but it could end in tragedy. Meanwhile, Du Plessis makes an alarming discovery about Ed and Fiona.

6.00 Breakfast. **7.45** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. From Manor CE School in York. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** Match of the Day Live. Middlesbrough v Leeds United (Kick-off 12.15pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations: Rugby Union. France v England (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Land Girls. (R)

6.35 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury explore north Kent. John Craven investigates the impact staple foods have on the environment and Adam Henson prepares his farm for spring.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in Chichester.

9.00 Upstairs Downstairs. Spargo signs up for a boxing tournament to impress Beryl.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **10.25** Room 101 — Extra Storage. With John Prescott, Rebecca Front and Micky Flanagan. Last in the series.

11.05 Would I Lie to You? With Ronnie Corbett, Sarah Millican, Holly Walsh and Julian Clary. (R)

11.35 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. The two finalists throw a VIP party. Last in the series.

1.40 Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkelman. (R) **2.25** Holly City. (R) **3.25** The Last Explorers. (R) **4.25** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.05** Flog It! **11.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.05** EastEnders. **2.00** Film: The Mosquito Coast. (1986) Drama, starring Harrison Ford. **3.50** Film: First Knight. (1995) Arthurian adventure, starring Sean Connery.

6.00 I'm a Pop Star! Life as a solo singer, with contributions by Kylie Minogue and Will Young. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Ben Fogle and Hugh Dennis undertake a perilous journey through the Peruvian Andes, driving along dirt roads and remote mountain trails. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May try to go motor racing for less than it costs to play golf. With rock star Slash and F1 driver Kimi Raikkonen. Last in the series.

9.00 Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey. From January to the March equinox.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion.

11.10 Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights. Action from the penultimate weekend of the championship.

11.55 FILM: A Boy Called Dad. (2009) Premiere. Drama, starring Ian Hart and Kyle Ward.

1.15 Film: The Wackness. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Ben Kingsley. **2.50** BBC News. **4.25** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.45** Film: Columbo Goes to College. (1991) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.40** Regional News: Weather. **5.55** ITV News: Weather.

6.10 You've Been Framed! (R)

6.40 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)

7.15 Dancing on Ice. The five remaining celebrities incorporate props into their routines as they battle for places in next week's semi-final.

8.30 Wild at Heart. Strange things are happening at Leopard's Den as Danny prepares to leave for the UK. Du Plessis makes an alarming discovery about Ed and Fiona. Last in the series.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.

10.05 ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Whitechapel. Part two of two. Miles and Chandler struggle to put aside their differences. Last in the series. (R)

11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the semi-finals of the cup competition.

12.10 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. **2.40** River Monsters. (R) **3.30** ITV News: News. **5.35** ITV Morning News.

6.25 The Hoobs. (R) **6.50** The Hoobs. (R) **7.20** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.45** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.10** T4: The Crush. **8.45** T4: Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.20** T4: Frasier. (R) **9.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** T4: Channel 4 Presents — 2012: David Clarke — Part Two. (R) **11.35** Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships. **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Come Dine with Me.

6.30 Channel 4 News. **7.00** 4thought.tv. **7.05** Home of the Future.

The Pererats try out a selection of health-related gadgets. Last in the series.

8.00 Searching for Shakespeare's House: A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson and the team dig at the site of New Place, the home of William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, to reveal how large the Bard's house actually was.

9.00 Homeland. Brody's increasingly erratic behaviour threatens his status as a national hero, and Carrie searches for evidence linking him to Abu Nazir.

10.00 FILM: The Final Destination. (2009) Premiere. Horror sequel, starring Bobby Campo.

11.40 FILM: Wolf. (1994) Romantic horror, with Jack Nicholson and Michelle Pfeiffer.

2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** 90210. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Mio Mao. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **10.55** Stansfeld: The Inside Story. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55** Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart. **2.45** Film: Cheaper by the Dozen. (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **4.35** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube.

6.20 FILM: Men in Black II. (2002) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.

8.00 Big Body Squad. (R) **8.55** 5 News. **9.00** FILM: Layer Cake. (2004) Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig.

11.10 FILM: The Boys from Brazil. (1978) Thriller, starring Laurence Olivier.

1.35 SuperCasino. **3.55** Europa League Football. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hansa's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
5.15 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **7.10** Film: Kangaroo Jack. (2003) Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** Film: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. (1998) Comedy crime thriller, starring Nick Moran.

ITV3
3.50 Film: Carry On Cowboy (1966) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Foyle's War. A pro-Hiller organisation is investigated. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
3.20 Film: The Rawhide Years (1956) **5.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Black Windmill (1974) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. **11.15** Film: Death Wish V: The Face of Death. (1994) Thriller sequel, starring Charles Bronson.

BBC THREE
7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief **8.00** The Secrets of Everything **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Pramface **10.30** Family Guy **11.15** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 Songwriters' Circle: American Folk **8.00** She Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Film: Frost/Nixon. (2008) Fact-based drama, starring Frank Langella and Michael Sheen. **10.55** Film: BirdWatchers. (2008) Premiere. Brazilian drama, starring Abrisio da Silva Pedro.

E4
4.20 Samantha Who? **4.50** Being Erica **5.50** 90210 **6.45** Film: Night at the Museum (2006) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
2.55 The Parent Trap (1961) **5.30** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **7.20** Zoolander (2001) **9.00** Kiss the Girls (1997) **11.15** Equilibrium (2002)

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The BRZ offers a top of the range and lower spec model with a 'stripped out' version to follow

Subaru's impressive list of equipment for 2+2 coupe

The UK-specification Subaru BRZ is set to add generous standard equipment to its already impressive arsenal.

Subaru's new 2+2 coupe has already generated high levels of interest at dealerships, with many customers placing orders before pricing and standard equipment have been announced.

The Japanese brand has now revealed that top-specification models come with 17-inch alloy wheels, a torque-sensing LSD front, side, curtain and knee airbags, MP3 connectivity, dual-zone climate control and LED daytime running lights. The driver-focused BRZ will also come with

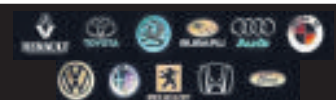
Subaru's VDC (Vehicle Dynamic Control) and can be fitted with either a six-speed short-shift manual or paddle-operated automatic transmission.

A second, lower-spec model will also be made available a little later in the year, as will a third 'stripped out' version, which promises to be the perfect solution for those who wish to tune and fettle the BRZ to their own tastes, as well as track-day enthusiasts.

The BRZ is available in six eye-catching colours all of which suit the car perfectly, including Subaru's trademark WR Blue Mica, Sterling Silver, Satin White, Crystal Black Silica, Dark Grey Metallic and San Remo Red.

The carefully conceived powertrain packaging allows Subaru's celebrated horizontally-opposed 200PS 2.0-litre Boxer engine to be positioned lower than ever before. The 2+2 coupe has the lowest centre of gravity of almost any vehicle, with half the BRZ's mass sitting below knee height. It promises a power-to-weight ratio of 164PS per tonne and this, in conjunction with its advanced lightweight chassis and use of cutting-edge lightweight materials, endows the BRZ with exceptional handling characteristics.

The BRZ will be available with the brand's new three-year Everything Taken Care of (ETCo) aftercare package, which offers a host of benefits worth over £7,000, free-of-charge.



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2000 X Reg	PORSCHE BOXTER 3.2 S TIPTRONIC S ROADSTER 2-dr. Blue, FSH, climate control, 44,298 miles, alloys.....	£9,495
2008 08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI EDGE 5-dr Hatchback. Silver, 2 owners, FFSH, air con, cruise control, 53,124 miles.....	£7,995
2007 57 Reg	MAZDA RX-8 (192) 4-dr Coupe. Black, 16,000 miles, 1 registered keeper, service history, climate control, alloys.....	£4,995
2003 03 Reg	MERCEDES-BENZ S CLASS S500L Auto 4-dr. Silver, FSH, sunroof, air con, 105,673 miles.....	£4,795
2006 56 Reg	SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 DDIS Deisel 5-dr Hatchback. Blue, 67,093 miles, FSH, air con, alloys.....	£4,695
2003 53 Reg	MG MGF 1.8 135 16V Convertible 2-dr. Green, FSH, alloys, 34,000 miles.....	£3,995
2002 02 Reg	FORD GALAXY 2.3 GHIA 5-dr MPV. Red, 69,075 miles, FSH, climate control, alloys.....	£3,295
2004 04 Reg	SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SE 3-dr Hatchback. Blue, 56,598 miles, service history, climate control, alloys.....	£2,995
2002 02 Reg	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 4x4 3-dr. Red, FSH, alloys.....	£2,995
2005 05 Reg	MG ZR 1.4 105 TROPHY SE Hatchback 3-dr. Blue, service history, air con, alloys, 66,438 miles.....	£2,795
2004 54 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 5-dr MPV. Grey, 67,326 miles, FSH, air con.....	£2,795
2003 53 Reg	NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 S 5-dr Hatchback. Silver, FSH, air con, 43,627 miles.....	£2,695
2000 W Reg	AUDI A6 1.8T SE Estate 5-dr. Green, 2 owners, FSH, climate control, 95,843 miles.....	£2,695
2002 02 Reg	PEUGEOT PARTNER COMBI 1.4 QUICKSILVER 5-dr Estate. Silver, 77,164 miles, FSH.....	£2,295
2001 Y Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC Petrol. Steel Grey, MOT July 2012.....	£1,695
2002 02 Reg	CITROEN SAXO 1.1i DESIRE 5-dr Hatchback. Green, 93,134 miles, service history.....	£1,495
2001 51 Reg	CITROEN C5 HDI SX 5-dr Hatchback. Blue, 11,700 miles, FSH, air con, alloys.....	£1,495

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Road signs, permanent and temporary, give drivers important information on their journey

Road signs play a crucial role on road

RED triangles for warning, **green** boards for destinations, **blue** circles instruct, **brown** boards direct you to tourist spots and **red** circles tell you what you're not supposed to do.

Yes, you guessed it; I'm talking about road signs. They are a central part of the road design. But they're not there for decoration and certainly don't stand there to look pretty.

Neither are they particularly informative when they are cluttered on one side of the road. We've all heard stories of the roads full of signs offering you an abundance of information which serves only to confuse motorists.

But road signs will help you to be prepared during your journey and find your way to your destination. Unlike your sat-nav they'll inform and warn you of the road in a way that your sat-nav simply will not. Here's some advice on tackling the signs.

When setting out on the road, try and



look well ahead. The more time you give yourself to see the signs, the better. The extra time you have will give you enough time to respond appropriately if you need to. Remember, signs will give information and guidance on hazards, road layouts and directions – so don't ignore them.

Be careful where there are temporary signs – they are there for a reason. We've all experienced those times when you're driving to work and suddenly it's taking you much longer to reach work because of roadworks. These works are usually be signalled through signs. They can often affect speed limits and road layouts – so pay attention.

Whilst signs are incredibly helpful, there are some which are just not being looked after. If you notice a sign that is

mis-spelt, is misleading, overcrowded or hidden by dirt and foliage, report it to the council. The message has to be clear so that drivers can act on the information immediately.

Read the road signs to double check your route – don't rely too heavily on your sat-nav in case things have changed. If you have missed the turning for your destination, never make a last-minute manoeuvre that could be dangerous.

That means no sharp turns, sudden braking or U-turns. It's always better to drive on until you find a safe place to turn around. This way, you're not putting yourself or anyone else in danger and can use signs to redirect your route.

Road signs are often seen as one of those things you only learn for your driving test. While you might not know what each and every sign means, it's always good to brush up and read the Highway Code every once in a while. Understanding signs can make your journey a lot less stressful.

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

When starting a building project always use a contract which should include details such as start and completion dates, costs and payment plan. You can download a free contract from the Federation of Master Builders (FMB)

Don't over estimate your abilities when it comes to maintenance and improvement work around the home. Doing jobs around the house yourself could be a false economy as work which is completed to a poor standard can actually reduce the value of your home. Not to mention the cost it could have to your health if something were to go wrong.

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/>.



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LOST—On March 1 in Bantock Park, silver chain with little cross. Sentimental item. Please call 07867 743100.

LOST—Pretty Grey pedigree cat, (BSH Blue), missing from Tetterhall area, Sunday, Feb 26, much loved pet. Reward. 01902 758562.

LOST—Rucksack/backpack, Netheron area, containing car keys and documents, reward for safe return. 07946 388487.

personal

BEERYL
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LABRADOR Pups, KC reg.

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LABRADORs, Black pups. Ready

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LUTHER PUPPIES, 8 weeks,

fawn and whites, w/ pet. £75. 01299 861586 or 07989 290633.

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STAFFORDSHIRE bull terrier,

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property

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3ft, wood with cot sides, nursing mattress, electrically adjustable, 3 months old, never used. Cost £1,300. 01902 670200.

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ONE AND THREE bed flats Tipton, furnished bedsits, Snedwick, 355 p.w. DSS considered, 07961 301577/07906 878175

ONE AND TWO Bedroom Properties, W. ton, Willenhall, view and Bilston, DSS OK, 07855 790391/01902 686905

PENFORD, 3 bed semi, excellent property, garage, CH, DG, DSS considered, 07773 256589

PENN FIELDS, Bristol Street, Terraced house, 2 bedrooms, Gas heating, Garden, £395 pcm Thomas Skidmore 01902 421491

PENNETT/DUDLEY Brierley Hill, one bed flat, Rent/Dep Neg, 0121 530 0064/07970 980639

SPRINGFIELD, 2 bed modern house, Wednesday, Flats to Let, Contact Mr Chopra 07890 012154

STOURBRIDGE/DUDLEY, Netherdon modern flats/houses, DSS welcome, Details 07831 200692/01562 885668

TETENHALL, W. ton, 1 & 2 bed flats, clean & tidy, CH, DSS considered, 07773 256589

THREE bed house, front/rear garden, on-suite, close schools/shops, 10 minutes W. ton centre, £580pcm, 07581 324915

THREE BED HOUSE, new decor, Ettingshall, £560pcm, 07722 864154

TWO BED HOUSE, CH, DG, large garden, Bromley area, no pets, no DSS, £485pcm, 01746 789466 or 07544 061683

TWO BED Apartment, W. ton centre, fully furnished, parking, £580pcm, No DSS, 07877 241704

TWO BED HOUSE, Willenhall, Road, Wolverhampton, No DSS, £580pcm, 07951 929421

WALL HEALTH Albion Parade, Two bed maisonette flat, £450pcm, TSR 01902 421216

WEDNESFIELD, Deans Road, 2 bed terrace, DG, Low Deposit, DSS welcome, 07773 256589

WEST BROMWICH, modern self contained bedsit, near town centre, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ ok, 07773 256542

WEST BROMWICH nice room, CH, fully furnished, view neg, 0121 439 1696 or 07769 796004

WHITMORE REANS, W. ton, 2 & 4 Bed houses, CH, DG, DSS welcome, for info 07773 256589

WILLENHALL, large flat, near town centre, no upfront deposit, DSS 35+ ok, 07773 256542

WOLVERHAMPTON, Leyland Avenue, Well presented, extended 3 bedroomed semi, Gas heating, Garden, Driveway & Parking, £595 pcm Thomas Skidmore 01902 421491

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ACCOMMODATION WANTED TO RENT for person with cats. Anything and most areas considered. 07816 073433.

ROOM WANTED

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AUDI TT 1.8 Coupe, 54 reg, black, tax April, 10 months MoT, 4 new tyres, fsh, £5,100. 07719 165194/01384 262356.

BMW 318i CFS, 05, tax, MoT, silver, 80,000 miles, good condition, £4,700. 01952 550666 or 07779 529658 (after 5pm).

BMW 328iE Auto E46 4dr, 1998, lovely dark metallic, alloy black leather, very good condition inside and out, MoT September, tax end of August, drives perfect, £1,200.00. 07713 450661.

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CITROEN C4 VTR 1.6 HDI Coupe, Diesel, blue, one owner, 2005, alloy wheels, full MoT, tax, excellent condition, £3,600. 07871 976145.

CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDI Auto, 2008, 23,000 miles. £4,500. 01299 896512.

CITROEN C5 1.6 HDI Design, (06), silver, 58k, full MoT, tax end May, alloy lights/wipers, EW, CL, AC etc, cat 1 approved alarm/immobiliser, excellent condition. £3,995. 07976 869485 or 01902 401139.

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FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI metallic blue, 05 reg, 5-dr hatchback, full MoT, taxed, full electric, alloys, aircon, one previous keeper, just fully serviced/ valeted. £2,250. 07931 082620.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec, 5dr, 2008, 63,500 miles, silver, electric windows, CD, petrol, air bag, a/c, fsh, MoT Aug 2012, Sept 2012, £1,890. 01794 010757.

FORD MONDEO TDCI GHIA 2004, 116,000 miles, metallic red, CD, a/c, alloys. Bargain £1,995. 07967 794191.

HYUNDAI ACCENT CDX hatchback, 1.3 petrol, 54 reg, 47,000 miles, full MoT, great condition, £2,150. 01902 7757 769588.

JAGUAR XJ8 3.2 EXECUTIVE September 2001, Mistral blue, 2 owners, 77,000 miles, fsh, 6 months MoT, excellent condition. £3,250. 01902 7757 769588.

KIA CARENS LX CRDI, 05, Diesel, SH, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, 55k miles, black, 2 owners from new. £2,100. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

LAND ROVER Discovery 300TDi, P reg, 5 door, full leather, MoT, tax, recent service, £2,150. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 Serengeti, petrol, 2003, 77,000 miles, dark blue, long MoT, tax June, £1,995. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

LANDROVER FREELANDER HSE 05 reg, black with black leather interior, 17m alloys, good tyres, Sat Nav plus HSE goodies, 2L BMW diesel engine, full MoT and 123,000 miles. £5,000. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

MERCEDES BENZ E220 CDI ELEGANCE 52 reg, metallic with beige leather, auto, fsh, MoT 80k, all electric, alloys, 6 CD changer, excellent condition. £3,850. Telephone 07961 762131.

MERCEDES BENZ SLK 230 CONVERTIBLE 2003, 64,000 miles, auto, black, cruise, CD, black leather heated electric seats, Mercedes fsh, tax, full MoT, truly exceptional condition. £7,750. Telephone 07779 197769.

MG ZS 1.6 54 reg, tax/MoT metallic grey, one owner, 32,000 miles, £1,600. 01384 235615.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN ELEGANCE 3.2 DIESEL 2 seater, 3dr, black, 2005, automatic, 44,000 miles. £8,750. 01384 279640.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO, 2003, 36,500 miles, air bag, MoT, Dec 2012, c/f, tax, petrol, genuine reason for sale, very good condition, £2,850. 01902 861493.

NISSAN MICRA, 2003, only 15,000 miles, silver, air bag, MoT, Dec 2012, c/f, tax, petrol, metallic paint, c/f, pas, sunroof, as new, amazing, £2,790. 07968 056477.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1 IX, 2003, 5dr, silver, tax, MoT, electric, pas, excellent condition, £1,699. 01902 7734038.

PEUGEOT 206 DIESEL XS 2003, 86,000 miles, fsh, MoT, tax, very good condition, economical. £2,750. 01952 243939 or 07976 875896.

PEUGEOT 308 SPORT HDI 1.6 2008, 5 door, 40,500 miles, blue, excellent condition. £5,500. 01743 236767 (daytime) or 01743 718104 (evenings).

RENAULT CLIO Metallic blue, 1.2 16v Extreme, manual, petrol, 4dr, 55 plate, 29,000 miles, Trip computer, electric windows, fog lights, CD/FM radio, alloys and Michelin tyres, 4 months tax, recent cambelt replacement, 12 months MoT. £3,250. 01902 372400.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 Extreme 16v, 2003, 63k, Silver, abs, EW, fog lights, CD, 6 months tax, June 3 door, excellent condition £1,950. 01902 7805 68337

RENAULT MEGANE Authentique, 1.4, 56 reg, blue, full MoT, tax, 5dr, only 17,000 miles, good condition, £3,450. 07957 593543.

RENAULT SCENIC 55 reg, 1.6 VVT Dynamique, auto, red, petrol, 28k, tax, MoT, lady owner, genuine reason for sale. £3,195. 01902 601108 or 07882 371131.

ROVER 75 2.0CDTi Connoisseur SE Tourer, diesel, (02), MoT/fax, fsh, 1 owner, leather, excellent. £1,650. 01902 893930.

ROVER MG ZS 1.8 Yellow, 2004, 5 door, hatchback, 33,681 miles, manual, petrol, extras, sunroof and front spotlights, 1 owner from new, tax April, MoT March, perfect condition. £2,750. Telephone 0121 3584746 (after 6pm).

FORD MONDEO TDCI GHIA 2004, 116,000 miles, metallic red, CD, a/c, alloys. Bargain £1,995. 07967 794191.

HYUNDAI ACCENT CDX hatchback, 1.3 petrol, 54 reg, 47,000 miles, full MoT, great condition, £2,150. 01902 7757 769588.

JAGUAR XJ8 3.2 EXECUTIVE September 2001, Mistral blue, 2 owners, 77,000 miles, fsh, 6 months MoT, excellent condition. £3,250. 01902 7757 769588.

KIA CARENS LX CRDI, 05, Diesel, SH, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, 55k miles, black, 2 owners from new. £2,100. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

LAND ROVER Discovery 300TDi, P reg, 5 door, full leather, MoT, tax, recent service, £2,150. 01902 428377, 07549 825920.

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SPORT

thechronicle

Bewdley back with a victory

Malvern 2 Bewdley 4

AFTER nearly three months of seeing little or no action, Bewdley made light of their recent inactivity to claim the West Midlands Premier League spoils at Malvern.

Bewdley's lack of games was more than evident in the first half as they failed to get any sort of rhythm to their game with Malvern capitalising to lead 1-0 at the break.

The second half was a completely different story as Bewdley dominated possession.

They were rewarded when top scorer Ollie Smith equalised but parity lasted just five minutes with Malvern edging back in front.

Bewdley then made a couple of changes with Dan Gittens and Josh Gaunt coming into the midfield, and from a Gittens corner, Richard Costello headed them level.

Bewdley then kicked on and were well on top of the game and their dominance paid off when further goals from strikers Chris Hough and Richard Burgess sealed the points.

Tuesday's game at Darlaston was called off for the second time this season when the hosts couldn't raise a side.

Kidderminster District League football results

Saturday

Premier: Birch Coppice 7 Claverley 1; Castlecroft Rangers 0 Two Gates 6; Claverley Colts 2 Dudley Wood Ath 4; Dudley Villa 3; Kinner 3; Lodgefield Park 1 Kings Heath OB 5; Netherton Ath 1 Wyre Forest 0; Oldswinford Harriers 2 Burish Olympic 4; Orton Vale 2 Arelley Kings 2 Sunday

Premier: Franche Village Club 2 Bromley 1; Harriers Trust 0 Kingswinford 4; Horned 7 Wordsley 2; New Olympic 1 Orton Vale 0; Wolverley Ath 3 Aleye Social 2; Woodside United 4 Oakham United 0.

Division 1: Chainwire 2 Caves 5; Phoenix Sports 5 Sporting Hagley 4; Swan Bewdley 2; Stour Park Rangers 3; WH Sports 1 Bull & Bladder 3; Waggon & Horses 3 Sporting Oak 6.

Division 2: Arelley Kings 3 New Inn Sports 3; Chaddestrey Corbett 2; Stourbridge Glassboys 4; Kewford Eagles 1 TS Units 0; Snooks 1 Gornal Wood 3; Stourbridge Rangers 8 Alletico Top House 1; Wall Heath 6 Cally 1; White Horse Celtic 7 Gigmill 3.

Division 3: Arley 1 Rock Sports 2; Bewdley Arches 3 Darby End Ath 4; Sporting Club 2 Plough Dukes 1; Plough Dukes 0 Sporting Club 1; Stourbridge Ath 9 HR's Sports Bar 3; Wollaston Celtic 2 Royal Exchange 2; Wordsley Lions 6 Mostyn Rgrs 3.

Division 4: Lakeside United 0 Lab-in Vain 2; Netherton 3 Wollaston Lions 0; Netherton Colts Sen 6 Unity 0; Stour Glassboys West 1 Farnfield 5; Vizi Bar 3; Clarks 1; Wilden Village Res 3; Pockets 2; Wyre Forest Harriers 1; Snooks Ath 1.

Division 5: Abbeyley 1 Arelley Kings Res 1; Forest Rgrs 3 King Billy 11; Hamilton Rgrs 5 Star 07 1; Hillgrove 3 Harriers Arms 3; Royal Exchange 1 The Brit Wollaston 2; Tap House 2 Preston 2010 1; Sun League Junior Cup Round Two: TS Units 0 Kewford Eagles 1.

Dominant ladies hit Leicester for six

Leicester 0 Stourport 6

STOURPORT ladies 1st XI demolished Leicester 2nd XI in the first of their Midlands Premier league matches last weekend, beating their hosts 6-0.

Stourport began the scoring shortly after the first hit back with a neatly finished short corner routine which Jodi Vincent converted.

Within minutes the visitors had added a second as Rene Johnson, Vincent, and Jade Marshall-Walker caused all sorts of problems for the home defence. A counter-attack saw Johnson cross for Lora Symonds to slot home. Stourport had an attack of nerves after that as Leicester pressured the Stourport goal winning a short corner, but failing

Stourport Ladies Hockey

to convert. Stourport regained the upper hand and unleashed a barrage on the Leicester goal as the second half began.

Player of the match Lewis caused the home side all sorts of problems down the left as she linked with Sarah Cavendish, and Georgi Burns on the counter-attack.

Stourport's third arrived via a tap in by Jade Marshall-Walker, followed by another tap across the line for the fourth, this time from Chloe Marshall-Walker.

Lewis was then rewarded for her dominating play with goal for herself after a solo run. The pressure again told on the home defence when a goal bound shot was stopped

on the line. Cavendish promptly stepped up and converted the resultant penalty flick, to round off the scoring for a dominant Stourport side.

Worcester 1 Stourport 3

For their second match, Stourport were a little closer to home as they travelled to Worcester University and won 3-1.

The visitors distributed the ball well from the outset, and tried to punish the home side down both wings.

Stourport couldn't quite make it work in the opening phase of the match however; patience proved to be a virtue and after the visitors had settled down. Chances came thick and fast as both Lora Symonds and Erin Preece both missed opportunities to

put Stourport ahead. Stourport finally got their reward with a cool finish from Chloe Marshall-Walker.

Worcester came back in the latter stages of the half and equalised from a short corner shot from the top of the 'D.'

After the break Stourport needed time to settle into their play and again patience was a virtue. Sophie Harris caused problems and put in an amazing ball which Symonds struck first time into the goal.

With renewed confidence Stourport defended tremendously, enabling them to counter and they extended the lead through another short corner, finished off by Sarah Cavendish. Player of the match was Georgi Burns.

Late goal proves there's no lady luck

Stourport 0 Harborne 1

STOURPORT ladies 3rd XI were unlucky at the weekend when they entertained the Harborne 3rds in the Worcestershire 1st Division and lost 1-0.

This was a closely-fought affair with the home side having the majority of the possession and chances.

Stourport were unlucky to have a goal disallowed and with five minutes of the game remaining they were even more unlucky when Harborne scored the only goal of the match. Stourport player of the match was Hattie Darling.

Stourport 0 Old Hales 2

Despite some good play, Stourport 4ths were no match for their visitors, Old Hales, to The Kingsway in this Worcestershire 2nd division match.

The visitors began well scoring in the opening 10 minutes. Stourport steadied themselves with some excellent breaks from Rosie Lewis, and Rosie Connolly making some outstanding runs up front.

While Stourport's player of the match, Keeley Hawkes created some great chances, But as Stourport began to tire in the second half Old Hales scored their second.

Stourport 2 Worcester 6

Despite taking the lead against top of division Worcester 4ths, Stourport 5ths were unable to prevent their hosts in this Worcestershire 3rd Division match from coming back to win 6-2.

Worcester pressed their visitors from the hit back and in the opening minutes it looked as though it would be only a matter of time before the home side scored. However, Stourport came back into the match.

During this period Stourport were creating some excellent one-to-one chances only to be foiled by the Worcester keeper.

Stourport scored through their player of the match Holly Lashford but Worcester equalised before the half-time whistle.

They took the match by the scruff of the neck in the second half, scoring a second.

But Stourport equalised through Jean Senior almost immediately.

They then hit a rocky patch as Worcester quickly scored four more goals.

Stourport rallied and fought hard to get back into the match but it was not to be as they just could not convert their chances.

Harriers in need of some home comfort

Kidderminster Harriers 1 Barrow 2

KIDDERMINSTER'S play-off hopes were dealt a blow following a disappointing defeat against Barrow at Aggborough.

The Bluebirds led 2-0 after 25 minutes and were able to hang on for victory despite Harriers pulling a goal back before half-time through Anthony Malbon.

The damaging setback nudged Steve Burr's boys down to seventh in the Blue Square Bet Premier table, two points away from the play-off zone.

They have now failed to win in their last four home league outings and face a huge task tomorrow night when they entertain table-topping Fleetwood Town.

Boss Burr said: "This defeat makes it much harder for us going into the Fleetwood game. But we can't change that. I'll never think we don't have a chance to get into the play-offs while it is mathematically possible."

Harriers, who lost 3-1 at Barrow earlier in the season, soon found they had a mountain to climb despite a 12th minute header from Malbon hitting the bar following a fine cross from Marvin Johnson.

The play-off chasing visitors responded by scoring twice in five minutes.

The first came on 20 minutes when Jack Macreath netted with a close-range header which was judged to have gone over the line before goalkeeper Tony Breeden pushed the ball away with what looked like an excellent reflect save.

Worse was to follow for Harriers who



Kidderminster striker Anthony Malbon is outnumbered against Barrow

went 2-0 down when Richie Baker notched a coolly taken penalty. It had been awarded when Macreath was brought down by substitute Callum Gittings, who was on for the injured Michael Briscoe.

Kidderminster grabbed a lifeline on 31 minutes when a well judged through ball by Lee Vaughan was gathered by Malbon who beat goalkeeper Shaun Pearson with a terrific 18-yard half-volley. It was his first goal at Aggborough.

Harriers then set about trying to get back on level terms before half-time, but were denied on a couple of occasions by Pearson who did well to keep out efforts from Kyle Storer and Ryan Rowe.

They continued to plug away after

the break in an unsuccessful bit to break down Barrow's well organised defence with Pearson again making a number of valuable saves.

The visitors, however, went close to stretching their lead in the closing stages. Firstly, Gittings did well to clear a Macreath effort off the line and then Andy Cook saw his drive hit the foot of a post.

Kidderminster: Breeden; Vaughan, Jones, Briscoe (Gittings, 15), Williams; Hendrie (Guinan, 85), Byrne, Storer, Johnson; Rowe (Wright, 79), Malbon. **Subs not used:** Lyness, Bradley.

Barrow: Pearson; Smith, Skelton, Bolland, Hone, Owen, Harvey (Boyes, 62), Baker; Mackreth (Nicholas, 90), Turner (Rutherford, 59), Cook. **Subs not used:** Dixon, Jackson.

Referee: Tony Harrington (Cleveland). **Attendance:** 2,135 (87 away fans).



Kidderminster's Anthony Malbon holds off a challenge



Harriers' Jack Byrne climbs high to win a header

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SPORT

Home woe
Harriers slip up
Page 31



Six of the best
Stourport Ladies shine
Page 31

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Smith and Halsall set to renew pool rivalry

KIDDERMINSTER'S Amy Smith admits she feels right at home in the Olympic Aquatics Centre after making an impressive start in the British Gas Swimming Championships.

The 24-year-old sprint specialist secured a surprise semi-final berth in the 200m freestyle on Monday as she finished just off her personal best in 2:03.05.

However, she later pulled out of the semi-final to prepare for her specialised sprint events later in the week, where she is hoping to seal a spot at this summer's Olympics.

Smith was using the 200m to tune up for the 100m and 50m where she will be hoping for a top two finish to clinch an Olympic spot.

There, she will renew her rivalry with four-time European champion Fran Halsall who pipped her over both events at last year's World Championship trials.

But having got a taste of the Olympic atmosphere, Smith is eager to get to her main events where she will need a top two finish, as well as meeting British Swimming's strict qualification criteria, to reach London.

Experience

"I did better than I was expecting in the 200m because I was only really using it as a warm-up swim for the 100," said Smith.

"I wouldn't be racing until day five if I didn't do that so I was just thinking about that really."

"It seemed to go pretty well compared to some of the other races I have done this season."

"It certainly makes you raise your game when you are competing in the Olympic pool and I know it sounds daft but it helps with the place being bright and the crowd there and everything."

"It definitely helps having the experience of racing in the pool ahead of the Olympics so you know what to expect is always nice as well."

"I guess it was a bit of a confidence boost to do well in the event I wasn't really expecting much from," added Smith.

"It probably won't relate too much to how I do in my 100 or the 50 but it was better than I was expecting so I can't complain."

British Gas supports swimming at all levels and is getting the nation to show its support for Britain's swimmers.

For information visit www.facebook.com/BGSswimming

KC still travel sick as blues continue

Banbury 20 Kidderminster Carolians 12

KCs away-day woes continued and they still have yet to pick up a single point on their travels this season.

They did, however, start the match well on top and had an early chance from a 15-metre lineout. The immediate danger was cleared but only at the expense of another KCs throw and this time a tremendous forward drive trundled Banbury back fully 25 metres before the whole pack crashed over the tryline with prop Matt Rigsby the most likely candidate to be credited with the score.

Fly-half Chris Pinner converted well to

put KCs 7-0 ahead and with less than 15 minutes played it was 12-0 as Layton Wilkinson went over.

Up to this point the home side had not been in the game but from the restart a KCs chip over the top fell into Banbury hands and a couple of slick offloads took play deep into Kidder territory to set up a series of rucks. KCs managed to slow the ball down but when Banbury at last moved it wide they created acres of space for their left wing McKenna to run in unopposed.

Banbury missed a chance to reduce the deficit when a penalty from the 10-metre line was just wide. There followed a period

of tit-for-tat rugby until a steal and blind-side break by scrum-half Mark James swung the momentum back in KCs favour. A knock-on returned possession to Banbury but their clearance kick was fielded magnificently by McLellan and Pinner's nifty footwork made further inroads into the hosts' 22 where they were penalised at a ruck. The kick at goal was held up in the wind and drifted wide and KC's failed to deal with the drop out.

This proved to be significant as the tide was turning against KCs. They cracked when Banbury's captain No 8 Simon Brand scored under the posts and the conversion

drew the scores level. Five minutes later the home side won a lineout on KC's 22. After moving the ball right they switched play back and the No 11 just beat the cover defence to score in the corner.

As time ran out KCs conceded a penalty and with the last play of the match Banbury's No 10 knocked over the kick. **Kidderminster Carolians Under-16s 22 Evesham 5**

On Sunday in very wet conditions, Kidderminster put in a strong all-round performance. Try scorers were Mark Desogus (2) and Liam Harrison with two conversions and a penalty from Dave Bisset.

Warriors' Acorns day converted into cash

WORCESTER Warriors have handed over a cheque to Acorns Children's Hospice for more than £6,570, raised at a charity match day in December.

The Warriors donated 150 tickets and the Sixways Upper Lounge to the charity for the game against Leicester.

The club also held a competition giving young fans the chance to design the shirt to be worn by the players at the match.

Nine-year-old Alice Scarlett, of nearby Warndon Primary School, landed the prize with her "shooting stars" design.

The limited edition shirts can be ordered via the Sixways Store or the Warriors website with 100 per cent of the profits being split between the Warriors' three nominated charities, including Acorns.

The shirts worn by the players on the day will be signed and available through a series of raffles and auctions, raising more urgently needed funds for the charities.

Acorns is planning its own online auction this month, which will see other signed limited edition shirts up for grabs, including one worn by England International player Matt Mullen.

Acorns corporate partnerships manager Elinor Eustace said: "The Worcester Warriors deliver wonderful support as one of our official partners."

"The charity match raised more than any other fundraising day to date, with donated ticket sales alone raising £5,200."

"This fantastic effort helps us continue to provide care for over 600 local life limited or life threatened children and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

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MARSHALL HANDED AGGBOROUGH CALL

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS defender Tom Marshall was today preparing to be pitched in against Fleetwood after being recalled from his loan spell.

Marshall arrived back at Aggborough at the start of this week after his second month at Brackley was cut short, due to an injury crisis at the back.

by Craig Birch

Harriers boss Steve Burr acted after Michael Briscoe was hurt in last Saturday's home defeat to Barrow. Briscoe is now a doubt with a back problem.

With Tom Sharpe on the long-term injury list, Burr was left with just Luke Jones as his only recognised central half so he called Marshall back.

The 24-year-old has been playing regularly for the Evo-Stik Southern Premier League leaders, who extended his loan last month.

Successful

But Marshall could now figure in tomorrow night's Blue Square Premier clash, with Fleetwood which is being screened live on Premier Sports.

Burr said: "Tom's had a very successful spell at Brackley on loan."

"He's gone out and got some games himself, but has also helped them to the top of the table with his performances."

"He comes back to us now with the opportunity to stake a claim and earn himself something for next season."

"He has continued to work very hard in training with us and you can see that, with games, he has become a lot fitter."

Harriers have recorded just one win in their last

seven games going into the match, but right-back Lee Vaughan insists it's just a "blip".

Vaughan was referring to their latest defeat, last Saturday's 2-1 loss to Barrow, where Harriers went two goals down.

They could not claw back the deficit in time and now look to bounce back from that disappointment against the visiting Bluebirds.

Vaughan said: "It is always going to be difficult when you go two goals down."

"They say in football that you get out what you put in, but it wasn't the case on that occasion."

"I thought we bossed the game but that's not taking anything away from Barrow, because they came here and did a job."

"They took the lead but I think it was every player behind the ball after that."

"Teams will do that because we are a good side - we will play worse than that and get three points."

"This is a blip but I don't think it was a bad performance against Barrow."

"The people who came to watch might have said it was but, as a player, I didn't think it was."

"We gave it a go - Barrow defended ever so well."

Stourport Ladies are all smiles



Stourport Ladies 4th XI hockey side are all smiles as they pose for the camera. Stourport line up, back row, left to right: Rosie Lewis, Heather Griffiths, Pauline Knott, Laura Bentley, Frances Taylor, Gill Jones, Chris Corcoran, Julia Hopkins. Front row, left to right: Rosie Connolly, Teri Baron, Josie Lewis, Midge Bradley. The picture was taken before their home match against Droitwich 1st XI. Full Stourport round up - Page 31.

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*VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 52Z available from £6,666, including a customer saving of £1,320. Splash 1.0 52Z available from £7,777, including a customer saving of £1,546. Swift 36 1.2 52Z available from £8,888 including a customer saving of £1,772 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous car at the road price of £10,995 (Alto 1.0 52Z), £9,325 (Splash 1.0 52Z) and £10,660 (Swift 36 1.2 52Z). †Customer saving of £2,335 for Swift 50 1.2 52Z A/T. Excludes customer saving.
This offer is subject to availability for vehicles registered between 31st January 2012 and 31st March 2012 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.
Models shown are the Alto 1.0 52Z M/T available at £7,785, Splash 1.2 52Z M/T available at £9,254 and Swift 50 1.2 52Z M/T available at £10,816 on the road (excluding point available at £100 to £195). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 48.4 (7.4) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 54.5 (5.4) to 78.9 (3.6), combined from 66.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (5.2). Official CO2 emissions from 131g/km to 131g/km.



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